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9 APR 1981

## MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Conversation with Keith Hall on OMB Studies for  
the Spring of 1981 (U)

1. As the result of a long visit from Keith Hall, [REDACTED] and I were able to obtain some additional information on the studies OMB is planning for the spring. I gather these topics are of interest to William Schneider, the new Associate Director for National Security and International Affairs, but the topics are familiar. I am sure his interests have been encouraged by Keith and Army. OMB is looking to have these studies done by June but that may be ambitious. (C)

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2. The first study will deal with competitive analysis in the Community. At this stage OMB is not concerned with current intelligence and will review only finished intelligence. Their real concern is whether or not the policy-maker gets the full expression of alternative views developed by the Intelligence Community. They will look at community publications that have provisions for footnotes or dissents, a variety of single-agency reports on the same topic which may or may not highlight the differences of opinion between agencies, and single-agency publications that reflect the views of the producer without noting dissenting interpretation. They plan to compare these publications with DCID 1/2 to determine the degree to which the reporting noted above relates to priorities established in this document, to interview administration policy-makers to determine their level of satisfaction with the finished reports surveyed, and to discuss with NIC how national intelligence estimates topics are selected and the production schedule is established. Hall would like to determine:

- a. Are there sufficient resources to perform competitive analysis? Should there be more? Should there be less?
- b. How does the Intelligence Community production and coordination process impact on the content of the documents it produces? Is the existence of competitive analysis lost in the process?
- c. Is there a balanced presentation of Community views in reports prepared by agencies for internal consumption? (S)

3. The second issue OMB wants to address is the establishment of a core level of intelligence production. They want to know if we can quantify the minimum level of effort necessary to provide enough

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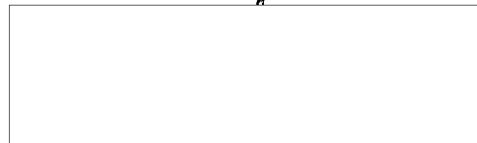
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coverage on all countries/ regions of the world to assure that a sufficient base of knowledge exists to serve as the foundation for in-depth analysis should a crisis occur. Since it would be expensive--it should include collection, analysis, and the creation and maintenance of data bases--would it be worth the effort? Their analysis would focus on several current problems that in past years showed no resource commitment in CIRIS. Again, by means of interviews, OMB would seek to determine what the Community had to do to get up to speed once high level interests on the area demanded information not readily available. One could, then speculate as to how much quicker the Community could handle crises and how much better the policy-maker would be served had a body of data been available. (S)

4. The last study would attempt to determine whether the proper balance of analytical resources is being achieved between those directed at determining how the Soviets train, operate, and plan to use their weapons as opposed to the extensive effort to determine the technical and performance characteristics of the weapons. As an example of his concern in this area, Keith expressed his distress about the limited amount of knowledge held by the Community that makes its way to the U.S. tactical commands for their use in planning their operations. Keith was not sure how he would structure this study. (S)

5. Keith said he would welcome comments about any of these. (U)



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